

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for actuating an electrical switching device having at least one moving contact piece, the at least one moving contact piece being driven via a rotating shaft, wherein an electric motor having a rotating drive shaft, which can be coupled to the rotating shaft for the switching device by means of a gear mechanism, is provided for the purpose of driving the rotating shaft to switch the switching device on and off.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in the case of multi-pole, switching devices, an electric motor is provided for the purpose of driving all of the switch poles.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in the case of multi-pole, switching devices, a separate electric motor is provided for the purpose of driving each switch pole.

4. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the central axis of the drive shaft runs parallel to the central axis of the rotating shaft.

5. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electric motor is a servomotor.

6. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gear mechanism is a lever mechanism.

7. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the lever mechanism is dimensioned such that a rotation of the drive shaft of the electric motor through at most 180° brings about a switching operation of the switching device.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein an intermediate piece, configured as a circular disk, is fixed to the drive shaft of the electric motor, and wherein an end of a connecting rod which faces the drive shaft ~~can be~~ is connected to said intermediate piece at one of at least two distances from the central axis of the drive shaft.

9. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gear mechanism is in the form of a toothed belt drive.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the toothed belt drive has a transmission ratio of 1:1 to 1:6.

11. (Original) A switching device having at least one apparatus for actuating purposes as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the central axis of the drive shaft runs parallel to the central axis of the rotating shaft.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the electric motor is a servomotor.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the gear mechanism is a lever mechanism.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the lever mechanism is dimensioned such that a rotation of the drive shaft of the electric motor through at most 180° brings about a switching operation of the switching device.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein an intermediate piece configured as a circular disk, is fixed to the drive shaft of the electric motor, and wherein an end of a connecting rod which faces the drive shaft ~~can be~~ is connected to said intermediate piece at one of at least two distances from the central axis of the drive shaft.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the gear mechanism is in the form of a toothed belt drive.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the toothed belt drive has a transmission ratio of 1:1 to 1:6.

19. (Previously Presented) A switching device having at least one apparatus for actuating purposes as claimed in claim 18.

20. (Previously Presented) A switching device having at least one apparatus for actuating purposes as claimed in claim 16.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the toothed belt drive has a transmission ratio of 1:3.5.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the toothed belt drive has a transmission ratio of 1:3.5.